

**Subject:** FW: Message from one of our students -- donations for Turkey earthquake relief

**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:49:20 AM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Bernadine Fong

**To:** foothill, centralservices, ASFC

Hello all,

Hope everyone has had a restful four-day break. While we don't always comment on every catastrophic event in the world, we want to when we know it directly affects a member of our community. Here is a plea from one of Eta Lin's (psychology) students who sent this to her, in the hopes she would forward it to me. Hope we can help Aisha.

*Dear Dr. Fong,*

*My name is Aisha Ergelen and I am a second-year owl majoring in Cognitive Science. I am also an immigrant and a first-gen U.S. college student with a Turkish background.*

*As you may already know, southeastern Turkey was hit by many earthquakes the biggest ones in magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.6 which are considered extremely destructive. Entire cities and towns have been completely leveled out, resulting in a death toll of at least 41,000 people. To give a better sense of the destruction zone, it's the same area between Bay Area and Los Angeles.*

*Because Turkey is governed by a dictatorship, the government is not doing enough. The earthquake tax money they have been collecting for so many years is not being used to rebuild the places. So it's crucial that those with financial means from abroad help out.*

*In these past two weeks, I have been doing everything in my power to spread the word and get my professors and peers to donate. Additionally, organizing an earthquake relief donation drive with my friends where we collected baby food, winter clothes, and medicine worth 30 boxes. I feel it's my responsibility to do everything in my power to provide those that became homeless overnight with some relief, especially considering the privilege I have living here. So with my instructor's (Eta Lin) suggestion, I also wanted to reach out to you with the hopes of spreading all this even further.*

*Here are all the reliable non-governmental resources for donation :*

<https://ahbap.org/disasters-turkey>

<https://www.embracerelief.org/donation/help-victims-of-earthquake-in-southern-turkey>

*Thank you for taking the time to read this,  
Aisha*